



The TURNTABLE

June 2010

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Important Dates

Ladies Luncheon

First Thursday of Every month. Contact Marge 533-4595

June 8th– 1PM

Wheelchair Accessibility Committee Meeting (freight shed)

June 20– Dad Day

Father's ride free ! (park entry applies)

June 26 & June 29

All Hands Mtgs (26th at 9AM, 29th at 1PM)

July 2, 3 & 4

Premiere Event: The Return of the #3 ! Monday July 5th will be a normal ops day (Sidewinder Express)

July 24– 5PM

Mark Twain Train

August 7th & 8th

Sierra #3 weekend! Two steam trains running!

August 21st

Singing Rails Music Festival– 4:30 to 8

August 28th

Meals on Wheels

A Star is Reborn- The Return of Sierra No. 3 All-Hands Meeting

If you will be working July 4th weekend, please attend at least one of these meetings: Saturday, June 26th at 9AM OR Tuesday, June 29th at 1PM

These will be logistical planning meetings for what promises to be a very full weekend. The more everyone is "in the loop" the smoother things will go!



Wheelchair Accessibility Committee

Armed with a wheelchair lift, and two transport wheelchairs (super-narrow chairs that visitors can borrow), we are on our way to being able to say "yes" when visitors ask if our trains are wheelchair accessible!

We need your help, however, to make this program work. Will visitors need to make reservations? Which cars will be accessible, and are there any constraints? Do we need to remove seats to make room for wheelchairs? What can we do to make the experience simple, easy and safe for our visitors? How will we get the word out?

If you are interested in helping find answers to these questions, please join us on Tuesday, June 8th at 1PM at the Freight Shed.

Announcing the 1st Annual 'Singing Rails' Railroad Music Festival

Our very first Railroad music festival will be held Saturday, August 21st on our picnic grounds. Scheduled to perform are The Black Irish Band, Cactus Bob & Prairie Flower and Lori Brandon & Chris Miller. Each act will perform songs from the railroad tradition and folklore. The concert will start at 4:30 and admission (tentatively) is \$12 to the public and free for volunteers and family. Bring your lawn chairs, coolers and blankets and enjoy!

Birthdays in June

Bill Baum (1st), David Bradley (5th), Jerry Lewis (6th), Norm Comer (7th), Jim Phillips (8th), Kevin Zimmerman (12th), John Brunskill (18th), Stan Eggink (23rd), Anthony LaNotte (29th)

Fan Mail

We received this handwritten letter last week: *"Hello Railtown 1897, I went on the Wildflower Ride on 4/24/10. It was a great time. What made it extra-special was the pictures I had taken with the crew. One picture was taken with just one man. I told him that I was sending it up to my Grandmother in Coeur d'Alene Idaho. She is 90+ years old and she was very happy. It reminded her of the times we went on the train ride at Pine Woods in Stockton. Of course that was about 40 years ago. 'It is the little things that make a difference'. Thank You again and I hope to come back again soon, Signed Erick J."*

Caught in the Act– Thank Yous!

Al Lehr and Jim Sutherland for our continuing presence at the parades (Roundup and Coulterville in May!), Joyce Presley for doing a fantastic job coordinating school days and Laverne Coon for keeping the schools "on track", David Deutsch for being everywhere at all times, David Ethier, Dave Tadlock and Ron Sloan for working overtime to get the firebrick and steam pipes in place on the #3, Allan Nordstrom (and others) for installing the swamp cooler, Ray, Rick, Blair and others for replacing the fence, Gene Arnold for selling over 25 memberships in May!, Janet Hart for updating the birthday list, Dave Warzee for painting the tender, the ladies in the caboose for consistently making lunch, and YOU for all you do.



Volunteer of the Month-- Gary Hosman



What does a retired Union carpenter from San Jose do after 25 years? Why of course, he moves to Tuolumne County and joins the volunteer staff at Railtown. What's so hard to figure about that? Every Tuesday, almost without fail you will see Gary at our safety meetings and then jump into whatever tasks are at hand. He retired a highly skilled architectural woodworker, and his talents were in great demand up and down the west coast from San Jose to Seattle and back. Among the many projects he worked on were the Hays Mansion and the San Jose Theatre. Linda his wife had also put in many hours as a volunteer and together they represented Railtown in most of the local parades up until last year, including the Mother Lode Round Up, which they claim is the 2nd largest parade in California, next to the Rose Bowl Parade. He says *"the greatest thing about working at Railtown is working with all our volunteers and helping to restore our old railroad equipment."* (A sentiment expressed over and over again by anyone who has been here for long time.) Gary has just about done everything here at the park from mending fences, re-roofing the warehouse (master mechanics building), helped on the #28 and put in many hours restoring the #7 caboose. If we had a walk of fame, Gary would get star! Big thanks Gary.

California State Fair-- July 14th through August 1st

Every year, the Tuolumne County Visitor's Bureau sponsors an award-winning booth at the California State Fair in Sacramento. The booth is designed to serve as both a staffed booth, and an unstaffed one. Of course, its much more effective when it is staffed with volunteers who love to share their passion for the area! Its also a great way to promote the return of the #3. Volunteering for a 4 hour shift gets you a free pass for the fair, and free parking. Please let Dave Rainwater know if you are interested in being a part of this. (Due to State Fair Megans' Law requirements, volunteers have to have a records check in advance, and it takes a few weeks.) It will be a great time to let California know about the Sierra #3 and the caboose!

Mark the Date! Friday July 2nd Sierra #3 Volunteer Appreciation Ride and Event

If you worked on the restoration of the Sierra #3, or have scheduled to work the 4th of July Event weekend, watch your mailbox for your invitation to the #3 volunteer appreciation event and BBQ! When you RSVP, train tickets will be set aside for you. All invited volunteers are welcome to bring a date for the BBQ, but train tickets are limited, and will only be available for volunteer guests on a space-available basis. Contact Dave Rainwater for more info.

The Joy of Being Tour Guide

A gentleman from Fredericksburg, Texas, recently wrote to our tour guide Bill Baum "It was a pleasure meeting you and enjoying your most informative tour of the railroad shops".

Providing our visitors with a unique, informative, accurate and fascinating tour is our goal. Caring about your tour and your time with the visitors should be our highest priority as tour guides. Our reward is the satisfaction that someone's life was enriched, and that we ourselves participated in sharing our history and heritage.

Be a part of the "Positive Team"



Remember the old line "accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative"? Or how about the old Chinese Buddhist maxim, "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil"?

Change is sometimes hard to accept or understand. Individually we may not always see or keep sight of the bigger picture and our ultimate goals.

Together as staff and volunteers we are working to improve all aspects of our operations at Railtown.

Being a positive team player, is the message Jim Mullin, Joe Sparagna and Bill Baum would like to share in this photo.



School Days Program Success!

Despite challenges posed by rain, track warrants and rain, our school days program was well received. Hundreds of school children from area (and out of area) schools participated and learned about the transportation innovations that led to the development of America.

School programs are scheduled for November 2010, and are on the reservation system. We are working on several ideas to get the word out about our school programs, including participating in a convention in Sacramento later this summer. If you have suggestions or ideas, please let the staff know.





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State Historic Park

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Return Service Requested

TO:



Docent Hotline- (209)-984-4408

Docent Site- <http://Railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers/default.aspx>

Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com



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